# METHOD FOR DESCRIBING OBJECTS IN A VIRTUAL SPACE

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for describing objects in a virtual space. In one embodiment, each object is a URL, which has been assigned to a system of hierarchical categories. The objects have been

5  mapped to a map region, each object having been given a location within the map region. Each category within the map region is defined as a polygon area covering all of the category's objects as well as all of the category's subcategories. A client computer can request a portion of the map to be visualized. A host computer receives the request and retrieves the appropriate objects and categories from a database. The host computer forms the response to the request using a

10 protocol which describes facts, location, and metadata about the objects and categories. The encoded response is delivered to the client. The client decodes the response and renders the objects and categories for the user. Different types of clients can concurrently request object descriptions from the server.